



Corridor Courier

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The Illinois & Michigan
Canal National Heritage
Corridor Commission

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www.nps.gov/ilmi/home.htm

Electronic Updates Sent Weekly

Every Friday, staff distributes an electronic bulletin. If you are interested in receiving timely updates and information about the Heritage Corridor, or have information you would like distributed via the E-Bulletin, please send an email to:

mary_tano@nps.gov

NEW COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED

Lockport-On November 20, 2003 U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton appointed sixteen members to the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission. The list includes ten new appointments and six re-appointments. The sixteen Commissioners represent a broad range of interests and experience and come from communities throughout the 100-mile long National Heritage Corridor.

"I've spoken to the new Commissioners, and they are all pleased to be appointed and eager to get to work," said Phyllis Ellin, the Commission's executive director. "The new appointments are particularly welcome in filling some vacancies, and they will bring new energy and ideas to our efforts."

- Representing state and local government are: Justin Blandford, Assistant Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; Robert Eshbach, Mayor, City of Ottawa; and John McIntyre, Director of Community Development, Homer Township.
- Representing county boards and forest preserve districts are: Wallace Brown, Commissioner, DuPage County Forest Preserve District; Ann Dralle, Will County Commissioner; and William Johnson, LaSalle County Commissioner.
- Representatives of history, archeology, historic preservation, recreation, and conservation are: John Lamb, Professor Emeritus of History, Lewis University; Dr. James Brown, Professor of Anthropology, Northwestern University; Dr. Michael Conzen, Professor of Geography, University of Chicago; Ronald Dodd, Executive Director, Joliet Park District; and Michael Pasteris, Executive Director, Forest Preserve District of Will County.
- Representing business and industry are: Jean Ann Robinson, Operations-Property Manager, Holderman Farms, Inc.; E.P. "Bob" Stewart, retired Executive Director, Three Rivers Manufacturers' Association; Jeanette Virgilio, Senior Engineer, ENMARC; Michael Rittof, Branch President, Founders Bank; and John Greuling, President/CEO, Joliet/Will County Center for Economic Development.
- In addition to the appointed Commissioners, Regional Director Ernest Quintana of the National Park Service's Midwest Region serves on the Commission as an ex-officio member.

The new commissioners will be seated at the January 15, 2004 meeting. The meeting will take place in the new meeting space at the Commission's office, located in the Norton Building at 201 W. Tenth Street in Lockport at 1:30 p.m. In addition to the installment of new commissioners, the agenda will include the election of new officers.

FY2004 Budget Approved

On November 10, the annual appropriation was signed by President Bush, providing \$600,000 for the Commission's fiscal year 2004 budget, which was approved during the Commission's November 13 meeting. The funding will support activities celebrating the 20th anniversary of the National Heritage Corridor and the work of partner organizations such as the Canal Corridor Association for the Port of LaSalle, and Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau to support visitor center operations.

Partnership Projects Completed in FY2003

- Construction of Native American Longhouse
- Completion of a Video on Will County History
- Seasonal Banners in Lockport
- Canal Mural at the Gaylord Building
- Community Planning-S. Cook County
- Canal Mural in Ottawa
- Mighty Acorns Program in Joliet
- Community Planning-Marseilles & Seneca

550 acres receive protection in Corridor

More than 550 acres of natural areas in the Corridor have gained protection from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (NPC). Just over 150 acres of nature preserve buffer have been added to Sagawau Canyon Nature Preserve. Nearly 140 acres of Lake Renwick Preserve East Unit are now protected as a land and water preserve. At Rock Run Preserve, 125 acres are now protected, along with 140 acres of Theodore Marsh Preserve. The process concluding with the land's designation by the NPC stemmed from agreements between the Forest Preserve Districts (FPD's) of Cook and Will Counties and CorLands, a nonprofit conservation group. CorLands administers wetland acquisition and restoration grants in conjunction with the Chicago District of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Both FPD's received such grants, and were required to seek the added protection that NPC designation provides.✚

2003 National Register addition

According to "Historic Illinois," the newsletter for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, there was one addition to the National Register in 2003 within the National Heritage Corridor. The Hiram B. Scutt Mansion in Joliet was added to the National Register of Historic Places on February 5, 2003. The Second-Empire style home was designed by James C. Weese, one of Joliet's first known architects. Hiram B. Scutt, having served in the Civil War, moved to Joliet and started manufacturing barbed wire in 1874, eventually holding ten patents on barbed-wire fences. The towered mansion presently includes four bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, dining room, office, solarium, servant's quarters, ballroom, library, and a 36-seat movie theater. ✚

FY2004 Partnership Project Fund

Applications for this year's Partnership Project Fund will be available in February. Last year we received twenty-three applications, of which thirteen were funded for \$70,000. In order to make your application competitive, we strongly recommend that you attend one of two open house sessions planned for mid-February. A notice providing information on the specific dates and times will be included in the next issue of the *Corridor Courier*. The application will be available on-line in February. A hard copy of the application will also be available by contacting our office at (815)588-6040.✚



The mural "Ottawa as a Canal Town," was funded in part through the Commission's Partnership Project Fund.

Lemont designates first two official landmarks

In October, the Lemont Village Board approved granting local landmark status to two historic buildings. The status does not place any additional restrictions on the buildings, merely recognizes their historic significance to the village. The Village Hall, 418 Main Street, and train station, 101 Main Street, are the first two buildings to be granted local landmark status since Lemont's historic district was created in 2001. The train station is probably the oldest commercial building in town (c. 1858) and the Village Hall (1892) is constructed of the stone that made the area a village. The preservation commission hopes to nominate three buildings a year. Each building that received the status will have a bronze plaque placed on it detailing its history.✚



FPD of Will County gets "green"

On October 9, the Forst Preserve District of Will County held an open house to unveil its new "green" Sugar Creek Administration Center. The building includes recycled materials and utilizes many technologies to reduce the use of energy consumption, including photovoltaic panels on the roof that will provide the building's electricity needs to power the computers and telephones. Even janitorial services at the new building will focus on products that are environmentally safe. The center will serve as a place where the public can get information on trails, obtain permits, and attend workshops and programs on natural gardening and building "green." The Sugar Creek Administration Center is at 17540 W. Laraway Road between Route 52 and Route 53 in Joliet. In addition to the new building, the district has been recognized as a 3-star Illinois Green Fleet through a program initiated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The district's fleet includes eight E-85 ethanol vehicles, 10 bio-diesel vehicles, and a hybrid vehicle.✚

Joliet Area Historical Museum receives awards

The Illinois Association of Museums recently recognized the Joliet Area Historical Museum with two awards. This year there were thirty-four Awards Program nominations state-wide. The museum received an Exhibition Audio-Visual Programs Award of Excellence, and a Main Exhibitions Space Award of Excellence. The Illinois Association of Museums was organized in 1994 and is composed of museums, historical and genealogical societies, zoos, arboreta, and other cultural and educational agencies.✚

Note* If you find a news article that refers to the canal in your local paper, please let us know. We will try to include a mention of it in future editions of the Corridor Courier. Our editor can be reached at (815)588-6040 or via email at mary_tano@nps.gov

Annual Report

Commission staff is working to compile information for our FY2003 Annual Report. The report will include highlights from the past year and information about strategic planning, assistance to partners, the Partnership Project Fund, and interpretation. We hope to have the report completed by the end of the year. The Annual Report will be available on-line via the Commission's website at www.nps.gov/ilmi/home.htm. ✚

Highlights from FY2003

- ↑ 30 % Mailing List
- ↑ 44 % Funded Partnership Projects
- ↑ 76 % Partnership Project Applications
- ↑ 240 % Park Passes Sold
- ➔ Trails and Rails:
 - 22 volunteers
 - 42 trips
 - 9606 travelers
 - 350 Jr. Ranger Programs
 - 75 Junior Rangers
- ➔ Bike and Brake for History:
 - 4 programs
 - 88 participants
- ➔ Volunteers-In-Parks:
 - 4773 hours
 - 104 Volunteers

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National Heritage Corridor
Illinois and Michigan Canal

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CORRIDOR COURIER

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Dates to Remember

2003

December 25 Christmas Holiday, Office Closed

2004

January 1 New Year's Day, Office Closed

January 9 Orientation for New Commissioners

January 15 Commission Meeting

January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Office Closed

For more information about events in your community and throughout the corridor, please contact the Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau at: (815)727-2323 or visit their website at: <http://www.heritagecorridorcvb.com/>



“for the benefit and enjoyment of the people”

